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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/019,381	09/08/2003	Qing Guo	42390.P9268	6337

8791 7590 11/28/2007
BLAKELY SOKOLOFF TAYLOR & ZAFMAN
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SUNNYVALE, CA 94085-4040

EXAMINER

ARMSTRONG, ANGELA A

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2626

MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
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11/28/2007

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/019,381

Applicant(s)

GUO ET AL.

Examiner

Angela A. Armstrong

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 31 August 2007.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-23 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-23 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- 1) ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - 2) ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - 3) ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

1. This Office Action is in response to Applicant's amendment filed August 31, 2007, in which applicant has amended claims 1-23.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

3. Claims 1-23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Waibel et al (US Patent No 6,324,510).

4. Regarding claim 1, Waibel et al discloses a method and apparatus for hierarchically organizing an acoustic model for speech recognition and adaptation of the model to unseen domains (Figures 4A-4D; 5A-5D; col. 3, lines 23-33) and at col. 6, line 27 continuing to col. 7, line 21, discloses scaling a decision tree based acoustical model which is based on a vocabulary (baseline: col. 6, line 37), wherein the scaling merges at least one node of the decision tree-based acoustical model with a parent node of the at least one node, the merging based on a subset of the vocabulary (new, smaller domain of the baseline: col. 6, line 37 and col. 6, line 66) which is used in a given task (target domain: col. 6, line 66);

Regarding claim 2, Waibel et al discloses the decision tree acoustical model is a hidden Markov model (Figures 4A-4D; 5A-5D; col. 3, lines 23-33).

Regarding claim 3, Waibel discloses adapting the scaled decision tree-based acoustic model for the given task at Figures 4A-4D; 5A-5D; col. 3, lines 23-33 and at col. 6, line 27 continuing to col. 7, line 21.

Regarding claims 4-9, claims 4-9 are similar in scope and rationale to claims 1-3 and therefore are rejected under similar rationale.

Regarding claim 10, Waibel et al discloses collecting a vocabulary knowledge used in a given task (new, smaller domain of the baseline: col. 6, line 37; target domain: col. 6, line 66); and trimming down a general acoustical model according to the vocabulary knowledge used in the given task at Figures 4A-4D; 5A-5D; col. 3, lines 23-33 and at col. 6, line 27 continuing to col. 7, line 21.

Regarding claim 11, Waibel discloses adapting the trim-down general model for the given task at Figures 4A-4D; 5A-5D; col. 3, lines 23-33 and at col. 6, line 27 continuing to col. 7, line 21.

Regarding claim 12, Waibel discloses collecting adaptation data, the adaptation data being related to the given task at Figures 4A-4D; 5A-5D; col. 3, lines 23-33 and at col. 6, line 27 continuing to col. 7, line 21; and adapting the trim-down general acoustical model (baseline: col. 6, line 37) to a task dependent model using the adaptation data at Figures 4A-4D; 5A-5D; col. 3, lines 23-33 and at col. 6, line 27 continuing to col. 7, line 21.

Regarding claim 13, Waibel discloses interpolating the trim-down general acoustical model with the task dependent model to obtain a task specific acoustical model at Figures 4A-4D; 5A-5D; col. 3, lines 23-33 and at col. 6, line 27 continuing to col. 7, line 21.

Regarding claim 14, Waibel et al discloses the decision tree acoustical model is a hidden Markov model (Figures 4A-4D; 5A-5D; col. 3, lines 23-33).

Regarding claims 15-23, claims 15-23 are similar in scope and content to claims 10-14 and therefore are rejected under similar rationale.

Response to Arguments

5. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-23 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

6. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event,

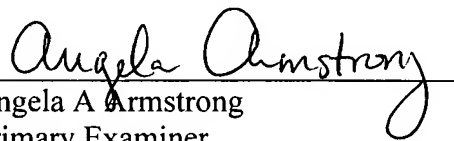
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however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Angela A. Armstrong whose telephone number is 571-272-7598. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday 11:30-8:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Patrick N. Edouard can be reached on 571-272-7603. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.


Angela A. Armstrong
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2626

AAA
November 27, 2006